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RUSSIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS MOSCOW AND HAVANA DURING JUNE-DECEMBER 1961

December 22, 1960

Ernesto "Che" Guevara, then President of the Cuban National Bank, returned from a trip to various bloc capitals including Moscow, during which he secured commitments for technical assistance and training, cultural exchange, a clearing agreement for payments to Soviet bloc countries, and a Soviet promise to buy Cuban sugar to the extent that the US cut back on its own purchases. The Soviets agreed to buy at least one million tons in any event.

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June 1, 1961

An agreement was signed in Havana for Soviet aid to the Cuban nickel industry in the amount of \$100 million, plus technical assistance and training. The mention of Soviet delegation personalities.

A supplementary trade protocol for 1961 between the Soviet Union and Cuba was signed in Moscow by Soviet Foreign Minister Jacinto Torres, raising the level of trade above that set in the December 1960 agreement.

July 25

Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin arrived in Havana for the Cuban July 26 celebrations. Gagarin was the guest of honor and was decorated by Castro.

August 8

A Soviet "goodwill" mission arrived in Havana, headed by the Secretary of the Presidium of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Georgadze. The group also included "the Soviet deputy foreign trade minister, the Vice President of the State Committee of the Council of Ministers for Cultural Relations, and the Vice President of the Committee for Foreign Relations." They were greeted on their arrival in Havana by Fidel Castro, President Dorticos, and Foreign Minister Raul Roa.

August 29

President Dorticos left for the Belgrade Conference of non-aligned countries, after which he travelled to Prague, Moscow, and Peking.

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- Blas Roca, former Secretary-General of the Cuban Communist Party, arrived in Moscow for a "rest visit. Greeted on his arrival by Otto Kussinen, secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU.
- Sept. 11 President Dorticos arrived in Moscow from Belgrade and Prague, and was met by President Brezhnev and Deputy Premier Aleksey Kasygin. Elaborate welcoming ceremonies. A communique issued on Sept. 20 stressed continuing Soviet aid to Cuba, and while in Moscow, Dorticos secured a commitment from the Soviets to buy an even greater amount of Cuban sugar.
- Oct. 21 Blas Roca, representing the new Cuban Integrated Revolutionary Organizations (ORI) into which the Cuban Communist Party was merged, addressed the 22nd Congress of the CPSU in Moscow. Also present representing Cuba were ~~Prime Minister~~ Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Labor Minister ~~Antonio~~ Sanchez. Blas Roca spoke on television in Moscow. On October 25, left Moscow for Havana on November 1.
- 25 A technical assistance treaty between the USSR and Cuba was signed in Moscow by (for) Zelenko, chairman of the State Committee for Technical Education and Commerce, and Cuban Ambassador Faure Chomon.
- Nov. 21 Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Sergei M. Kuznetsov returned to his post in Havana from a visit to Moscow.
- Dec. 27 Soviet Deputy Minister for Foreign Trade, Mikhail Kuzmin, arrived in Cuba to sign a trade protocol for 1962.

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